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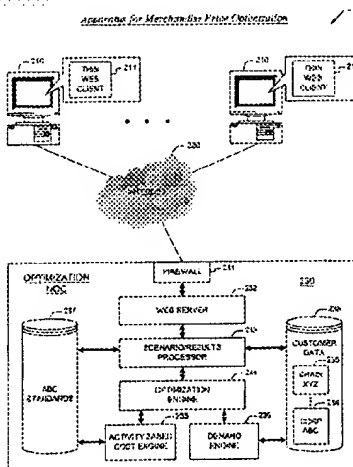
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method are provided for an interface enabling a user to determine optimum prices of products for sale. The interface includes a scenario/results processor that enables the user to prescribe an optimization scenario, and that presents the optimum prices to the user. The optimum prices are determined by execution of the optimization scenario, where the optimum prices are determined based upon estimated product demand and calculated activity based costs. The scenario/results processor has an input/output processor and a scenario controller. The input/output processor acquires data corresponding to the optimization scenario from the user, and distributes optimization results to the user. The scenario controller is coupled to the input/output processor. The scenario controller controls acquisition of the data and the distribution of the optimization results in accordance with a price optimization procedure.

41 Claims, 35 Drawing Sheets

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TITLE: Interface for merchandise price optimization

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (64):

Now referring to FIG. 30, a diagram is presented depicting a create and manage store groups template 3000 according to the exemplary price optimization embodiment. The create and manage store groups template 3000 is provided to the user's web browser when the user selects the store groups option 804 within the groups/classes menu discussed with reference to FIG. 8 or when the user selects the create or edit store groups button 1208 within the new scenario location template 1200 discussed with reference to FIG. 12. The create and manage store groups template 3000 enables the user to create and/or manipulate groups of stores for the purposes of optimization. Two types of "groupings" are provided for by the template 3000: a group and a cluster. Both groupings are an aggregate of stores whose price history and sale data will be employed (if selected) within a price optimization. However, optimizations that prescribe store groups are allowed to determine different prices for the same product according to each different store within a store group. If the user prescribes a cluster of stores for an optimization, and if the user selects the enforce/apply cluster prices checkbox 1405 within the at-large rules template 1400 described with reference to FIG. 14, then optimized prices for each of the stores within the cluster are constrained to be the same for each product carried by the stores within the cluster.

Other Reference Publication - OREF (1):

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